

Fence...a constructed barrier to livestock, wildlife, or people.



Livestock fencing, photo courtesy USDA – Natural Resources Conservation Service

Purposes

This practice is applied to facilitate the application of conservation practices by providing a means to control movement of animals and people.

Benefits

Fencing can help implement rotational grazing practices, protect environmentally sensitive or valuable areas from livestock and people, and help protect new vegetation during establishment.

Applications

This practice may be applied for appropriate inclusion or exclusion reasons, including but not limited to the following:

1. To exclude livestock and/or wildlife from areas that should be permanently protected from grazing such as continuous cropland, woodland, and other uses;
2. To exclude livestock from environmentally sensitive areas such as water bodies, wellhead protection boundaries and others;
3. To subdivide land to permit use of grazing systems;
4. To protect new seedlings and plantings until grazing is allowable; and
5. To regulate access to areas by people.

Design and Installation

Fences can be permanent or temporary, depending on the practice's desired purpose. Fences are also available in a wide variety of designs and materials, depending on the intended purpose and longevity requirements of the project. A typical fence utilizes barbed or smooth wire suspended on posts with support structures. However, woven fences and electric fences are also recommended for specific purposes. Consult an NRCS conservationist for site-specific recommendations.

Maintenance

Fences should be inspected regularly, especially after storm events to check for needed repairs. Any repairs should be made with materials that equal or exceed the quality of the original materials.

Relative Cost

Installation low ●●○○○ high

Maintenance low ●●○○○ high

For Additional Information...

Visit the Minnesota NRCS office online at <http://www.mn.nrcs.usda.gov/>, see the Minnesota Job Sheet or the Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG) standard for (382) Fence, or contact your local USDA-NRCS office

Local USDA-NRCS contact information